2: Hickinbotham C-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

narrow confines of the rocky headland on which Aden lies into the interior of the Protectorate; a land of hills and deserts and of wild and warlike people as lovable as they are childlike and wayward. I have met many people who have passed through Aden and they have all disliked it, while at the same time I have met almost as many people who have lived there and they have all spoken with affection of the place. Arabia is a hard mistress who conquers slowly but, having conquered, never, never releases her hold, nor does the victim wish for release.

The Colony of Aden, as it is known today, it was called the Settlement when I first went there as a Government servant, is quite a small area only 5 square miles in extent. In appearance it resembles a lobster's claw, a maimed lobster, with one half of the claw shorter than the other. The claw is open and between the two halves lie the harbour. On one side of the harbour is the peninsula of Aden proper, and on the other the peninsula of Little Aden, now re-named Burriekha—just two promontories jutting out into the Gulf of Aden. The one on which the town of Aden lands is connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus, the other is almost part of the mainland. Both these promontories are hilly and are connected to each other by a narrow strip of plain running round the northern side of the harbour from Little Aden, widening considerably to include the town of Sheikh Othman and the village of Imad and eventually reaching the sea again at the Khormaksar beach some eight miles to the east of Aden town. The boundary of the Colony has been demarcated and has not been in dispute for many years. The island of Perim, which lies at the bottom end of the Red Sea, is part of the Colony, why, precisely, I have never been able to understand. Perim was at one time a relatively important coaling station, with a garrison of Indian Army troops, but now that coal has been superseded by oil it is deserted, except for the personnel of the two important lighthouses, a few fishermen, and a detachment of Armed Police from the Colony Police Force.

The main commercial centre of the Colony lies in the midst of the old volcano and is appropriately called "Crater". The trading and maritime suburbs of Tawahi (Steamer Point to

2: Hickinbotham G-4.5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 M341 Aden M341

with us and was now returning to his work somewhere on the Abiyan plain. I had no armed escort from the Government Guards. The safety of my companions and myself rested with the Sultan who was fully prepared to accept his responsibility. In fact, if I had attempted to take an armed escort on this particular trip, we would almost certainly have never got to Al Qara at all. The independent-minded tribesmen would undoubtedly have resisted the movement of armed men into their country and we should have been faced with the alternative of turning back or having to force a passage. Not really an alternative because I had not, in those days, a sufficient force at my disposal to overcome spirited resistance from thousands of tribesmen in that tangle of hills.

QUAITI

Both during my term of office as Governor and during my earlier periods of service in Aden I paid frequent visits to Mukalla, the capital of the Quaiti State in the Eastern Aden Protectorate, which nestles below a high hill feature on which stand the now empty watch towers that in days gone by protected the wealthy merchants of the town from bedouin raiders. Mukalla has a fascinating little harbour and the town is grouped attractively round a bay filled with the bluest water that I have ever seen. Viewed from the broad beach outside the ancient gateway as the sun is setting, the town and the hill behind it are suffused with a golden light, and the slender white minarets of the Mosques are a delicate shade of pink. It is really beautiful.

Here in Mukalla are not only the business houses of the merchants who trade with the Far East and Aden and supply the Hadhramaut with its innumerable wants, but also the palace of the Sultan, the British Residency, and the Government Offices of the Quaiti administration. Outside the walls of the town are the depot of the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion and the barracks of the Mukalla Regular Army and the Quaiti Armed Constabulary. Here also is the Bedouin Boys' School, a boarding school for the sons of tribesmen run by the State on the

THE CRESCENT, TAWARI, ADEN, SHOWING MAIN SHOPPING CENTRES AND PRINCIPAL BOOKSHOP SIGNS

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29:Dunn S-4 (1952)1952 ME Middle East

COTTON IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Virtually the entire Arabian Peninsula is supplied with cotton textiles through Aden. The goods usually are imported by the large international merchants who have offices in Aden and are distributed through the Arab traders.

SAUDI ARABIA

The greater part of Arabia is occupied by Saudi Arabia, a tremendous country of some 350,000 square miles, approximately the size of Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi combined, but it consists mainly of deserts and steppes distinguished for its aridity and barrenness. Considered one of the driest and hottest countries in the world, it cannot boast a single lake or river.

The population is estimated at 5.5 million. The people, except for those who live in a few towns and oases, are nomads who lead their camels and goat herds from one grazing area to another.

There is no industry of any consequence, and the agricultural resources are quite inadequate to support the people. Much of the food requirements, and practically all the manufactured items, such as textiles, are imported. In the past, these imports were financed largely from receipts of pilgrims to Mecca; new royalties from the oil produced in the concessions on the Persian Gulf—50 per cent of profits before taxes—provide the largest part of the country's income. FAO is lending technical assistance for the development of the economy, and money from the oil royalties is available for capital.

There are plans for large-scale agricultural development, including irrigation, and some of these plans include cotton. But no one thinks that cotton production will ever be significant in view of the limited agricultural potential and the growing demand for food.

This is almost the only one of the larger countries which has not at least proposed the establishment of a textile factory.

The country is so primitive it does not even have a customs office and collects no statistics, so no one knows how many yards the country imports or how much the population consumes. The sales, for the most part, are made through the Protectorate of Aden.

YEMEN

The Kingdom of Yemen which adjoins the Protectorate of Aden on the western coast, is a sizable area of about 75,000 square miles, a considerable part of which is suitable for cultivation under irrigation. Like the Protectorate of Aden, there are numerous mountains near the coast which provide a source of water. At present the country has a rather diversified agriculture widely distributed throughout the country. It can usually supply most of its food requirements, and it exports some agricultural products, principally hides. Yemen might be able in the future to expand its agriculture and possibly even to grow a little cotton but the push is lacking for such a development. The little kingdom has gone through one political crisis after another and even now has an uneasy situation.

MUSCAT AND OMAN

The independent Sultanate of Muscat and Oman on the eastern corner of the peninsula is one of the largest subdivisions of Arabia with a coastline of over 1,000 miles. The country has a narrow coastline, a range of hills, and